

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ISLAMA 04205 290943Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 SY-05 A-01 OPR-02 MCT-01 HA-05
EUR-12 OC-06 CCO-00 /080 W
-----109889 290953Z /10

O 290849Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO AMEMBASSY KABUL NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL KARACHI NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL LAHORE NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI NIACT IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6937

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 4205

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEC, PBOR, AF, PK
SUBJECT: STATUS OF AFGHAN BORDER

REF: (A) KABUL 3288 (B) ISLAMABAD 4203 (C) ISLAMABAD 4201
(D) ISLAMABAD 4202 (NOTAL) (E) ISLAMABAD 3231

1. BORDER SITUATION: AMCONSUL PESHAWAR REPORTS THAT ACCORDING TO DIG POLICE, BORDER CROSSING POINT AT TORKHAM HAS BEEN CLOSED ON THE AFGHAN SIDE SINCE SOMETIME ON THE 28TH. VISUAL SEPARATION AND THE CONFIGURATION OF MANE BORDER CROSSING MAKE OBSERVATION DIFFICULT, BUT PAKS SAY AS FAR AS THEY CAN DETERMINE NOTHING IS GOING ON ON AFGHAN SIDE OF THE BORDER: NO VEHICLES OR PEOPLE ARE COMING OVER THROUGH TORKHAM (ALTHOUGH REST OF BORDER IS DOUBTLESS AS PEOPLE-POROUS AS IT USUALLY IS).

2. PAK AUTHORITIES HAVE CLOSED BORDER ON PAK SIDE TO KEEP TRAFFIC OUT OF THE NO-MAN'S ZONE; IN FACT, TRAFFIC ON PAK SIDE IS BEING STOPPED AT JAMRUD, ACCORDING TO DIG. WE KNOW NOTHING OF THE SITUATION AT BORDER CROSSING POINT ON QUETTA-KANDAHAR ROAD.
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3. FOR KARACHI: IF YOU CAN COME UP WITH ANYTHING ON THAT PLEASE REPORT DIRECTLY TO KABUL, INFO ISLAMABAD.

4. RETURN OF KABUL CONVENTION DELEGATES: WE HAVE BEEN GIVING THOUGHT TO HOW DELEGATES MIGHT GET OUT OF KABUL BUT DECIDED NOT TO RAISE THE MATTER WITH YOU WHILE BORDER REMAINS CLOSED

AND SAFETY OF TRAVEL ALONG ENTIRE KABUL-TORKHAM REMAINS IN DOUBT (REFTEL B). OUR VIEW, WHICH WE HAVE BEEN PASSING TO PARENTS, RELATIVES, AND SCHOOL AUTHORITIES HERE, IS THAT DELEGATES SHOULD PLAN ON STAYING ON IN KABUL FOR A FEW DAYS LONGER -- ESPECIALLY NOW THAT SITUATION SEEMS CALMER THERE -- UNTIL WE CAN FEEL CONFIDENT ABOUT SUCCESS AND SAFETY OF ROAD TRAVEL THROUGH TORKHAM. ISI SUPERINTENDENT HAS PASSED ON THIS VIEW TO MURREE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL AUTHORITIES ALSO.

5. FYI: ISI SUPERINTENDENT IS LOOKING INTO POSSIBILITY (AND COST) OF PIA FRIENDSHIP CHARTER FOR SHUTTLE BETWEEN PESHAWAR AND KABUL SHOULD KABUL AIRPORT OPEN IN A DAY OR TWO EVEN IF OVERLAND ROUTE REMAINS CLOSED OR UNCERTAIN. END FYI.

6. FOR KARACHI AND LAHORE: SUGGEST YOU PASS ON OUR THOUGHTS PARA 4 ABOVE TO SCHOOL AUTHORITIES, OMITTING REF TO POSSIBLE AIR CHARTER WHICH MAY, FOR ALL WE KNOW, REMAIN JUST AS MUCH A NON-STARTER AS OVERLAND ROUTE NOW APPEARS TO BE.
HUMMEL

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Message Attributes

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